



Borough of Aylesbury.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1937.



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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Aylesbury.

I present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for
the year 1937.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,288 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,190
Local estimate of resident population, mid 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,232
Population 1931 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,387
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,312
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£112,500
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£430

The chief industries are agriculture, production of butter and cheese, printing, rivet manufacture, and hat making ; for the last industry, a considerable number of girls have been brought to the town from the North of England.

Unemployment.—At the 31st December, 1937 :—

224 men ; 18 young men	...	...	...	...	242
62 women ; 13 young women	...	...	...	...	75
Total					<u>317</u>

were unemployed.

At the corresponding date in 1936.

Men	...	...	...	...	...	...	186
Women	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Total							<u>207</u>

(Figures kindly supplied by Mr. W. Perritt, of the Labour Exchange.)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	...	M.	F.
		...	...	...	...	111	96
	{	Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	4
Total						<u>116</u>	<u>100</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :
 Legitimate, 15.2 ; Illegitimate, .6.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 40.0.

Stillbirths	{	Legitimate	...	...	...	M.	F.
		...	...	...	...	6	3
	{	Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0
		...	...	...	...	0	0

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population,
 11.6.

Deaths	...	...	...	...	Total.	M.	F.
					165	91	74

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

							Deaths.
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Total							<u>0</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 0.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age						M.	F.
...						6	3

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	41.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	43.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	22
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1

Birth-rate, England and Wales, 1937	...	...	14.9
Death-rate, England and Wales, 1937	...	...	12.4
Infant Mortality Rate, England and Wales, 1937	...	...	58

Disease causing most deaths were :—

Heart disease	...	...	...	...	37
Cancer	...	...	...	...	22
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	14
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	8
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	11
Violence	...	...	...	...	6
Influenza	...	...	...	...	5
Congenital debility and Premature birth					5

The ratio of deaths from Cancer, Heart Disease, and Tuberculosis to total deaths for the five years including 1937 :—

	Cancer.	Heart Disease.	Tuberculosis.
1933	1 in 7.3	1 in 5.6	1 in 40.0
1934	1 in 5.0	1 in 5.0	1 in 26.2
1935	1 in 5.6	1 in 4.9	1 in 27.8
1936	1 in 4.9	1 in 4.3	1 in 21.2
1937	1 in 7.5	1 in 4.4	1 in 15.0
Averages for the 5 years	1 in 6.0	1 in 4.8	1 in 26.0

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These services remain as mentioned in my Annual Report for 1935, page 5 ; and provide for all the necessary needs of the Borough. The extension works at the Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital are proceeding, and when completed will provide more than 100 beds for in-patients.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. This is supplied by the Chiltern Hills Spring Water Company, the town being situated in their statutory area. The water is obtained from deep wells sunk in the chalk of the Chiltern Hills at New Ground, and Dancers End, a constant supply is given under the pressure of gravity. The water is softened by Clarke's process, and samples are examined monthly. Following is a copy of an analysis made in December, 1937 :—

Total matter dried at 100°C.	...	...	16.0
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	...	1.6
Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0004
Nitrates	...	...	absent
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0.47
Oxygen absorption, 15 minutes at 80°F.	...	...	0.008
„ „ 4 hours at 80°F.	...	...	0.012

Physical Examination. Appearance clear and colourless, trace of light grey deposit. No odour.

Hardness : Temporary, 6.10 ; Permanent, 4.50. No typhoid bacilli were found.

The Analyst states that the water is of good quality and is quite suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, and is a comparatively soft water.

The following account has kindly been supplied by Mr. W. H. Taylor, Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

Drainage and Sewerage. The drainage and sewerage of the Borough is satisfactory, and is on the partially separate system, surface water from streets and buildings being discharged direct to watercourses at various points. Owing to differences in level, four localities are provided with pumping stations to lift the sewage into the main sewers. These are situated at Mandeville Road, Buckingham Road, California and Tring Road. There is also a small pump house in Oxford Road to deal with an individual property.

Sewage Disposal. The Sewage Disposal Works are situated about one mile to the north-west of the town, and approximately a quarter of a mile to the south of the Bicester Road. The site is bounded on its south side by the L.N.E. Railway. The total area of the works is 27.139 acres and is divided into two approximately equal areas by a lane which runs from the Bicester Road to the Railway. The Sewage from the adjoining Parish of Birtton is discharged into the Borough Council's Sewer in Stock Lake and gravitates to the Disposal Works through the Main Outfall Sewer. In spite of the partial separation of surface water previously mentioned the large amount of 750,000 gallons has to be dealt with on an average daily. The crude sewage first passes through the Detritus Chambers (7,000 gallons capacity), constructed in two sections to permit them to be cleaned out on alternate days. A large proportion of the solids is removed at this point daily. The flow then passes through the screens along the channel through a Venturi Flume which records the whole of the flow received at the works.

In the channel immediately below this point an overflow sill is fixed. In time of storm all the flow over three times the normal dry weather flow passes over this sill along a channel to the Storm Water Tank ; from this point it passes via the pump well to a small automatic percolating filter on the site to the west of the lane, from where it is discharged to the irrigation areas.

The normal flow passes the storm water overflow sill and proceeds along the channel and full width weir inlets to the settling tanks, five in number, which are adaptable for use either in series or in parallel. Further opportunity is afforded here for the removal of sludge and scum boards across the tanks on the water level way-lay grease and other scum.

From these tanks the flow passes through a fine screen to a separation manhole where the rate of flow is regulated to two lines of 15" diameter pipes.

The first line of pipes carries the flow to a dosing tank which controls four automatic percolating filters each 90 feet diameter, with a total capacity of 5,308 cubic yards. The effluent from these filters then passes to the pump house and thence to the irrigation areas on the west side of the lane.

The second line of pipes takes the flow to a dosing tank controlling two automatic percolating filters each 72 feet diameter with a total capacity of 1,810 cubic yards. The six automatic percolating filters are all built with good furnace clinker and give excellent results. From the two percolating filters the flow passes along a channel to a pump house where three automatic pumps raise the water to two humus tanks ; these have a capacity of 24,500 gallons. The inlets to these tanks are arranged so that the flow is diffused to the fullest extent thus giving maximum efficiency of settlement.

From the Humus Tanks the flow proceeds along channels and is discharged to the irrigation area to the east of the Lane and adjoining the Railway. This final treatment removes any slight flocculent matter in the water.

The flow proceeds from the irrigation areas along channels into the main effluent carrier which passes under the Railway and discharges into the stream, a tributary of the River Thame. The sludge gravitates from the Settling Tanks to a well under the main pump house from where it is discharged to Sludge Beds, total area 2,200 square yards. These sludge beds are under-drained and the effluent from these drains is carried to a small pump house from where it is pumped back to the settling tanks. The sludge not discharged to the Sludge beds is trenched into the land, and where possible this land is ' cropped ' and after a period of years the whole of the topsoil is removed. This method materially assists in the disposal of the sludge, which the farmers are not very willing to remove for use as manure on their lands.

The reports of the Analyst on the final effluent from the works are very satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams. The more frequent cleaning out of the Bear Brook which runs through the town, has resulted in maintaining a good flow of water, and in preventing floods.

(i) **Closet Accommodation.** No closets on the conservancy system exist in the town, all existing closets are water flushed.

The new underground convenience for ladies and gentlemen in Kingsbury Square is a much-needed improvement, and the shelter erected over it for the use of passengers waiting for the omnibuses will be appreciated by those who before its erection, had to stand in the open in all conditions of weather.

(ii) **Public Cleansing.** This has proceeded in a satisfactory manner.

(iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.** Inspections made under the Public Health Acts are as follows :—

Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	1,100
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	433
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	1,814
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	117
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	71
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	224
Other Visits	...	...	...	...	214

(iv) **Smoke Abatement.** Complaints have been received of the nuisance caused by smoke from Messrs. Itas' Hat Factory, Bicester Road, and many interviews with the Managers have taken place ; alterations at considerable expense have been made to the furnaces, but although there is some improvement, the result, so far, is not satisfactory.

(v) **Swimming Bath and Pool.** The aeration and chlorination of the water of the Pool continue satisfactory.

(vi) **Eradication of bed bugs.**

1. (a) Council houses infested, 1 } Disinfested, 10.
(b) Other ,, 9 }
2. Methods employed are spraying and Cimex Blocks.
3. When moving persons from condemned houses, the furniture is treated.
4. The disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority.
5. The Sanitary Inspector advises the tenants on precautions to be taken to prevent recurrence.

Schools. The general sanitary condition of the Elementary Schools continues good, and the water supply is sufficient.

The epidemic of mumps subsided in January, but influenza of a mild type was very prevalent.

Local Rainfall.

January	.....	3.91 inches.	July	.....	1.78 inches.
February	.....	4.16 ,,	August	.....	1.90 ,,
March	.....	2.35 ,,	September	...	1.80 ,,
April	.....	3.71 ,,	October	.....	3.05 ,,
May	.....	3.51 ,,	November	...	1.24 ,,
June	.....	3.52 ,,	December	...	2.15 ,,

Total for the year 33.08 inches.

The third highest amount on record since 1906. Figures kindly supplied by Mr. W. H. Taylor.

Section D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year :—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 537
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 918
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 503
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 848
 - (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0
 - (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 528
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 528
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—
 - (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in respects of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after services of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 0
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners 1
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 0
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners 0

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV. Overcrowding) :—	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	0
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	0
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	0
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	60
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	409½
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions :—	
Forty-one houses have been built to cope with the overcrowding.	

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.** Nestles' and the Co-operative Society pasteurise milk, and three retailers supply "Tuberculin Tested" milk. Samples of the pasteurised milk have been tested at Shinfield and found satisfactory. Samples of milk have been tested for cleanliness by the Sanitary Department of the Borough. The campaign for the greater consumption of milk is to be commended, but to be safe milk should not merely be clean, and unless it is "Tuberculin Tested" or Pasteurised or preferably both, it should be boiled. At the United Dairies laboratories it was found that 70% of herd samples of certified milk contained the abortus organism of undulant fever, and 63% contained the hæmolytic streptococci of mastitis.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	811	326	3,872	2,259
Number Inspected	440	88	779	942
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	3	7	8	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .	38	0	30	19
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	9.3	7.9	4.8	3.1
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ..	7	0	0	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23	0	0	47
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.8	0	0	6.04

BAKEHOUSES.

On the Register.
16Inspections.
72Notices served.
35

No alteration has been made in the conditions under which bread is handled and delivered.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The notifications as supplied by the Registrar-General were :—

	Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	46	42	0
Diphtheria	5	4	0
Puerperal pyrexia	2	—	0
Pneumonia	15	—	14
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	2	0
Paratyphoid fever	1	1	0
Erysipelas	6	3	0
Phthisis	12	—	11
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis }			
Anthrax	1	1	0

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the Infant Welfare Centre at the request of parents, and the subject has been considered by the Health Committee with regard to it being carried out by the Local Authority.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15—	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
25—	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	—	1	0	—	1	1	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS..	4	5	0	2	4	3	0	1

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

On the Register.
133

Inspections.
224

Notices.
2

Requirements have been carried out without statutory notices being necessary, the Sanitary arrangements are sufficient, and the general conditions under which the employees work are good.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Yours faithfully,

T. G. PARROTT,
Medical Officer of Health.